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INCREASED TENSION IN HAVANA FOLLOWING VENEZUELAN COMPLAINT TO OAS

3 Dec 63

Msg Nr: 20

Confidential.

44 USC 2107(5)(g)(2)(D)(i)

I wish to inform Your Excellency that a certain tension prevails in the Latin-American embassies accredited here, since they think that the risk of a break-off of relations with Cuba has grown dangerously since the well-founded Venezuelan complaint against Cuba because of her aid to the FALN and the resulting convocation of the OAS. They think that ROMULO BETANCOURT, while requesting hemispheric military action against Cuba in the OAS, knows that he may not, or almost certainly will not, obtain enough votes for his proposal. But such [2 gr G] would grant him the authority then to demand and specify a total break of relations with Cuba by the American States. The Brazilian Embassy believes that Brazil will try not to go so far as to vote for a break, but if the others approve it, she would have to follow the majority.

Tension between Cuba and Mexico has also increased suddenly as the result of a violent note which the Foreign Ministry here delivered to the Mexican Ambassador because of the detention in Mexico City of a Mexican woman employed at the Cuban consulate who was reportedly connected with the accused assassin of President KENNEDY, LEE OSWALD. The Mexicans reportedly returned the above-mentioned note.

The death of President KENNEDY, the Fidelista campaign to incriminate U.S. Rightists in that assassination, lack of knowledge as to the future direction of Washington policy [1 gr G]

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Venezuela and the threat of armed action or at least diplomatic isolation and the immediate tightening of the embargo, the knowledge that this country is behind the subversion in Venezuela with arms and men (the Cuban press, while ridiculing the incident of the arms on the beach at Paraguana, gives no indications whatever of indignation or repudiation of the Venezuelan accusation) have created a growing feeling of crisis. Cuban forces continue with precautionary measures, and at dawn today there was observed a large movement of military transports to the east [2 gr G] call-up of the militia. On the other hand, the internal counterrevolutionaries reportedly have been very restless for four days in expectation of the OAS resolutions.

44 USC 2107(5)(g)(2)(D)(i)

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